

ANNUAL REPORTS

OF THE

SCHOOL COMMITTEE,

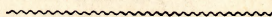
AND OF THE

RECEIPTS AND EXPENDITURES

OF THE

TOWN OF PALMER,

For the Year ending March 10th, 1856.



PALMER:

FISK & GOFF, PRINTERS.

1856.

REPORT OF SCHOOL COMMITTEE

SCHOOL COMMITTEE

Following the review of their proceedings in office, and in relation to the law of the State, the School Committee of Tarrant County, Texas, in their annual report, submit the following report:

For a Committee entered upon their duties with a strong determination to promote the schools and improve the grade of scholarship throughout the town. Their first business was to select a set of High and Middle Schools for the guidance of Teachers in the several schools. In addition to the School Committee, an account of every lesson taught. The Committee, knowing this requirement, have generally put forth their best efforts to make as high as possible upon the Board. As a means of promoting them, Diplomas were furnished each Teacher to award to such pupils as had not during the week been absent or tardy, or absent in any vacation; and to those who for any reason during any the term actually complied with these requirements, large and beautiful Diplomas were awarded at the close of School by the Committee. The names of those who received the same were published in the newspaper of this town. The Committee were proud that this method of encouraging scholars has secured admirably, and they have been pleased to witness the commendable spirit of emulation which has sprung up among them in their efforts to obtain these Diplomas.

In the month of November 2, 3, and 12, the several schools of Tarrant County were visited by the Committee, and the scholars of various grades of advancement are gathered. In schools out in the country, where no division of scholars could be made, the classes were combined. It was found to be the custom in some schools for Teachers to classify scholars according to their age and size, thus placing them in the first class who should have been in the last. This error in the latter classes when they should have been in the first, and not have been promoted by repeating Teachers to spend the first day of school in examining their pupils in the several studies they desired to pursue, and assigning them their proper classes. Scholars thus examined have not been put back to the beginning of their books at every term, as has been the custom from time immemorial in many schools, but have been placed in the classes where they left off at the previous term, when it was found that they were qualified for the same. They had gone over the same ground, and had not been promoted, but were promoted to the next grade.

With the advancement of scholars.

REPORT OF SCHOOL COMMITTEE.

Following the custom of their predecessors in office, and in obedience to a law of the State, the School Committee of Palmer respectfully submit to their fellow citizens the following report :

Your Committee entered upon their duties with a strong determination to elevate the Schools and improve the grade of Scholarship throughout the town. Their first business was to adopt a set of Rules and Regulations for the guidance of Teachers in the several Schools. In addition to a Register of Attendance and Deportment, they were required to keep a Record of Scholarship—an account of every lesson recited. The scholars, knowing this requirement, have generally put forth their best efforts to rank as high as possible upon the Record. As a means of encouraging them, Diplomas were furnished each Teacher to award weekly to such pupils as had not during the week been absent or tardy, or deficient in any recitation ; and to those who for four weeks during any one term strictly complied with these requirements, large and beautiful Diplomas were awarded at the close of School by the Committee. The names of those who received the latter have been published in the newspaper of this town. The Committee have found that this method of encouraging scholars has worked admirably, and they have been pleased to witness the commendable spirit of emulation which has sprung up among them in their efforts to obtain these Diplomas.

In Districts number 2, 3 and 12, the Schools are graded. Schools thus formed into divisions are better calculated to advance the education of children than those in which large and small scholars of various degrees of advancement are gathered. In Schools out of the above named Districts, where no division of scholars could be made, the classes have been graded. It was found to be the custom in some Schools for Teachers to classify scholars according to their age and size, thus placing some in the first class who should have been in the second or third, and others in the latter classes when they should have been in the first. This evil has been remedied by requiring Teachers to spend the first day of School in examining their pupils in the several studies they desired to pursue, and assigning them their proper classes. Scholars thus examined have not been put back to the beginning of their books at every term, as has been the custom from time immemorial in many Schools, but have been allowed to commence where they left off at a previous term, when it was found that they were familiar with the lessons they had gone over. This putting pupils back every term to go over an already familiar and beaten path is a discouraging practise, which the Committee believe to be a great hindrance to the advancement of Scholars.

Your Committee have been particular to insist upon Teachers explaining in as clear a manner as possible the lessons of their pupils. It has been found that an answer, as given in the book, is not always sufficient to convey a full understanding of the subject to the scholar, and that a Teacher by some familiar illustration, can instruct his pupils far better than the book from which they recite. An attention to the elements of our language has been required of all scholars in the Schools, and it has often been necessary for Teachers to instruct pupils in the first class what they should have learned while in the second or third.

In hiring Teachers, with two or three exceptions, we have had nothing to do, that business, by a vote of the town, having been left with the District Committees, who are in no way responsible to the town for the success of the Teachers they engage. It has been our duty, therefore, to approbate Teachers in some instances because they answered the letter of the law, by passing an examination, when, for other reasons, they should not have been engaged for the Schools in which they were to labor. On more than one occasion have we realized the truth of a remark made by HORACE MANN, that "The Prudential Committee and the Superintending Committee are different hands of the same body, and if they are not animated and moved by a common spirit, either one can defeat the most praiseworthy efforts of the other." We would recommend that the business of hiring and examining Teachers be left with one Committee. As this would be imposing additional labor and responsibility upon the Town Committee, they could not be charged with coveting the authority; but we sincerely believe the arrangement would in more ways than one be a benefit to the Schools.

The abolition of the District system has been urged by our predecessors. We shall not advise in this matter; but we are of the opinion that it might be advantageous to the small Districts if the system were abolished. The concentration of population in our villages is yearly increasing the number of scholars in them, while in remote Districts the number is annually diminishing. The School money being divided so as to allow an equal sum for the education of each scholar, the larger portion of it goes into the village Districts, thus giving to two of them more than half the money raised for the support of all the Schools in town. Did not the town appropriate \$300 to be divided among the Districts containing a small number of scholars, some of them could not sustain a School for more than one month in a year. It costs no more to support a School of twenty-five pupils than it does one of seven or eight, and it is easier to have a *good* School with the first number than with the latter. If some of the sparsely settled Districts would unite, they could have more schooling and better Schools than they now have. The smaller the number of scholars in a District, the less interest there appears to be among the inhabitants in their School. They suffer their School-houses to go unrepaired and neglected till in some instances they have become more appropriate for pig-pens than School-rooms. Some of the Districts alluded to must soon build new School-houses or give up their Schools altogether.

Your Committee recommend that the town purchase books for all the Schools. By so doing a systematic course of study may be adopted from the primary classes up to the High School. Particular studies could then be assigned each class, and by the time a scholar had passed through the

successive classes in a common School, he would be well qualified to enter the High School. The books he had used in passing through this course of study would not be piled up at home as soon as he had done with them, but be left for other scholars to use, till they were worn out. A great deal of complaining from parents who have now "A house full of books," would be got rid of, and the Schools would be better provided with books than they now are. School Committees can obtain most of the School books in use at half the prices paid for them by parents at the stores; besides it would not cost half as much yearly to supply scholars with books as it now does. Should the town purchase books, it would be necessary to keep them always in the School-rooms, only allowing them to be carried home over night by those scholars who might desire to study evenings. We feel anxious that the town should give this recommendation a candid consideration. Each School should also be supplied with a globe. A number of them can be purchased at \$3.00 each. They will give pupils a better understanding of the geography of the earth's surface than they can obtain in any other way.

Having alluded to several points touching the general welfare of all the Schools, we will now briefly notice each of them in the order of their numbers.

HIGH SCHOOL.

Mr. Henry L. Boltwood having declined to teach the High School another year, D. S. PHILLIPS, a teacher in the Academy at Great Barrington, was engaged to succeed him. He came well recommended, and his manner of teaching, together with the success and satisfaction that have attended his labors, convince us that few teachers could have excelled him. He was thorough in his work, enlisting the interest of his pupils in their studies, and drilling them in such a way as to bring out their thinking powers and mature their reasoning faculties.

Last year the Committee tried the experiment of lowering the standard of scholarship requisite for admission. This year we have raised the standard, believing that the character and best interests of the School demanded it. Owing to the earnest entreaties of parents, in some instances, the Committee have admitted those of a lower grade than the standard they had adopted. There is now no excuse for not raising the standard where it should be, there being scholars enough in town qualified to attend a High School without admitting those who would do just as well in a Common School. Every scholar should be required to pass a thorough examination in the elementary branches of arithmetic, grammar and geography, and be a good reader and speller, before being admitted to this School. Unless a requirement of this nature is insisted on, the School will rapidly degenerate to the level of a District School. In order to have scholars qualified to enter the High School, our Common Schools need elevating. In them the foundation of a good education should be laid. The best of teachers should be employed in them and a regular course of study adopted.

The division of the town into several villages precludes the possibility of locating the School in one place so as to accommodate all. But, for an experiment, we would recommend that it be held for three successive terms at the Town House—the Spring, Summer and Autumn terms. This would accommodate Thorndike, Three Rivers and the surrounding

vicinity. The fourth or Winter term should be held at one of the villages, and we would suggest that it be held at the Depot village, as that place would be the least accommodated when the School was at the Town House.

The first term was held at Palmer Center. It was attended by 39 different scholars, with an average of 28. The School made good progress during the entire term, as the examination conclusively proved. Two of the pupils in this School were teachers in our District Schools the following Summer.

The second term was held at Three Rivers. Being in the Summer, the School was small, though larger than the Summer School the previous year. There was not that interest and animation manifested in the School as at the first term, owing, probably, to the smaller number of pupils, and the leaving of some of them before the close of the term to assist at home. There was, however, a manifest degree of advancement made in the several studies pursued.

The Autumn term was held at the Depot village. This term was well attended. Most of the scholars, having attended the High School at previous terms, were well qualified for admission and made rapid advancement. The teacher secured admirable order, as in fact he did at every term of the School. The examination was highly interesting and satisfactory.

The Winter term was kept at Thorndike. An excellent room was provided and the School was quite large, numbering 46 pupils, 30 being over 15 years of age. At the commencement of School some trouble arose because the scholars were shut out of the School-house and yard during noon-time, agreeable to a vote of the District last Spring. Several who came from a distance withdrew from the School on account of this arrangement. The town should understand what privileges and accommodations scholars can have, when voting the School to its different locations. The School was one of much interest. Many of the pupils had attended two or three previous terms and the progress they had made was conspicuous. At the examination the number of visitors present was large, and all appeared highly interested in the performances. Several of the scholars were considered qualified to teach a common District School, but we would recommend to those who may have that pursuit in contemplation, that they attend the State Normal School at least two terms before entering upon so responsible business.

At the conclusion of the exercises, the scholars presented their teacher with several beautiful and valuable volumes, costing \$11.00, as a token of their gratitude and high esteem.

On the Monday evening following, the scholars gave an Exhibition at the Town House, which was attended by a large audience. The declamatory and dramatic exercises were well performed, eliciting much commendation. The receipts were \$58.00; expenses, including the purchase of curtains and other articles to be kept for such exhibitions, \$40.25, leaving \$17.75 to be appropriated to the purchase of apparatus for the School. The receipts at the Exhibition last year, after paying expenses, were \$24.63. This sum was paid into the hands of the teacher, Mr. Boltwood. He expended \$7.25 for a globe, which has been used in the School during the last two terms, and there is still in his hands \$17.38, which added to the receipts of the last Exhibition, make \$35.13 to be

appropriated to the purchase of School apparatus. Following the example of the Committee last year we have donated \$10.00 to Mr. Phillips for the extra time and labor it cost him to get up this Exhibition.

There were in the treasury at the close of the last School year, \$18.23. The sum appropriated by the town was \$525.00. Received for tuition \$9.00, making \$552.23. The teacher's salary was \$500.00; expenses for wood \$27.47; donated to the teacher as before named, \$10.00, and \$9.00 were expended for books and incidentals, leaving now in the treasury \$5.76.

DISTRICT No. 1.

SUMMER TERM—*Misses Angeline Harvey and Elizabeth J. Hale, Teachers.*—Miss Harvey was young and inexperienced, and was obliged to leave her School on account of ill health after teaching seven weeks. Her success in governing and instructing those under her charge was very commendable. She was succeeded by Miss Hale, whose excellence as a faithful teacher and disciplinarian has been spoken of by previous Committees. She kept a good School.

WINTER TERM—*Miss Jane C. Harvey, Teacher.*—The School was small, and before its close the number of scholars became too small to be interesting. Most of the pupils, however, made good progress in their studies. Miss H. is a good teacher.

DISTRICT No. 2.

FIRST DIVISION — SUMMER AND AUTUMN TERMS —*Mrs. P. A. Thomas, Teacher.*—She was systematic and energetic in her instructions. The order was good, the recitations prompt and appeared to be well understood. The Fall term was short, and the number of scholars attending it was smaller than in the Summer, but they were more regular in their attendance and manifested a deeper interest in their studies. The examination at the close of each term was very satisfactory. At the close of the last term, the scholars testified their regard for Mrs. Thomas by presenting her with a handsome volume of poems.

WINTER TERM —*Mr. C. C. Street, Teacher.*—Mr. S. came well recommended, and his success in giving instruction was good, the progress made by most of the scholars being very commendable, especially in reading and spelling. But he failed in keeping good order. This was in a measure owing to a very large School, and more particularly to the conduct of half a dozen large boys who seemed to attend for the purpose of creating disorder. We suggest to Mr. S. that he labor to improve as a disciplinarian.

SECOND DIVISION—SUMMER, AUTUMN AND WINTER TERMS—*Miss Sarah Nelson, Teacher.*—This was a large School, and many of the scholars were French and Irish. During the first term many of the latter were unable to speak English, thus rendering the task of the teacher no very desirable one. She succeeded remarkably well, so instructing and disciplining them, that during the second and third terms they appeared finely. It has been found highly beneficial to a School, to employ one good teacher several successive terms, and we would recommend that District Committees retain the services of such teachers as long as possible.

DISTRICT No. 3.

FIRST DIVISION—SUMMER TERM—*Miss Maria B. Williams, Teacher.* Miss W. is a highly educated and amiable teacher, but there was a sad lack of order in her School. While she appeared to gain the affection of her pupils, she failed to secure that obedience so necessary in a well-conducted School. The examination was far better than the Committee expected it would be. A decided advancement was noticed in many of the scholars.

WINTER TERM—*Augustus Alvord, Teacher.*—Mr. A. succeeded very well in securing good order, and explaining to his pupils the lessons they were required to learn. He did not, however, enlist the interest of the scholars to that degree which we like to witness. For this reason many of them failed to make much progress.

SECOND DIVISION—SUMMER TERM—*Miss Sarah Wilson, Teacher.*—This was a successful school. The scholars were all small, and they made good advancement in the studies appropriate to their ages.

WINTER TERM—*Miss Elizabeth J. Hale, Teacher.*—We have before alluded to her as a good teacher, and have yet to learn of an unsuccessful or disorderly School where she has taught. The children under her charge did exceedingly well, all seeming to feel an interest in their studies. We recommend that her services be again secured in this School.

DISTRICT No. 4.

SUMMER AND WINTER TERMS—*Miss Minerva M. Hastings, Teacher.* Both terms were very successful. For a young and inexperienced teacher few can excel her. She gave good satisfaction to the District and Committee.

DISTRICT No. 5.

SUMMER AND WINTER TERMS—*Miss Martha M. Sedgwick, Teacher.* Miss S. exhibited much interest in her scholars, and her success was good. The scholars were small, but made good progress in their studies. Their recitations at the examination of the School (Summer term) were pleasing to the many present. During the Winter term the large scholars manifested much interest in the School, and made good improvement in their studies. This District has a School-house ventilated too much for the health and comfort of teacher and pupils. It should have been among the "by-gones" before this time. "A word to the wise is sufficient."

DISTRICT No. 6.

SUMMER TERM — *Miss S. J. Merrick, Teacher.* — A long and good School, which was beneficial to her pupils and satisfactory to the Committee.

WINTER TERM — *Miss Harriet J. Burnett, Teacher.* — This was a large School for the District, but considering the teacher's inexperience she did very well. A lack of order was the only objectionable feature in the School.

DISTRICT No. 7.

SUMMER TERM—*Miss Jane D. Strickland, Teacher.*—Miss S. gave good satisfaction, and proved a very good teacher, though rather indulgent.

A little more animation on the part of the scholars would have made the School appear much better. Several of the scholars left the District before the term closed, and others were too irregular in their attendance to make much progress in their studies.

WINTER TERM—*L. F. Griggs, Teacher.*—The School this term was smaller than in the Summer, having an average attendance of six scholars. The teacher was a good one, and the School appeared well under his charge for a short term of eight weeks. In the Fall there was much contention in the District as to who should hire a teacher for the Winter term of School, and the strife ended by engaging a teacher at \$33.50 per month to instruct *six* scholars. This will leave but very little money for a Summer school. A District that at best is short of money, and has but few scholars, should use strict economy in sustaining its Schools.

DISTRICT No. 8.

SUMMER TERM—*Miss Ellen M. Butler, Teacher.*—The School prospered well under the instruction of Miss B. She was obliged to close it, however, sooner than she anticipated on account of ill health.

AUTUMN TERM—*Charles C. Street, Teacher.*—Mr. S. succeeded well in instructing the pupils placed in his charge, but he failed in securing good order. A good education is essential to make a good teacher, but a lack of the power to govern, often renders a well educated gentleman or lady unfit to take the charge of a School.

WINTER TERM—*George M. Burr, Teacher.*—This was a larger School than had been in this District for several years. The scholars made good progress and the examination was quite satisfactory.

DISTRICT No. 9.

THERE was no School kept in this District in the Summer. The scholars were so few, and as they could attend the Schools in adjoining Districts, it was thought advisable to save the money till it could be expended to better advantage.

Hartwell Fisk was engaged to keep the Winter School. The number of scholars was only 9, and they were all boys. Mr. F. passed a good examination, but he came without experience as a teacher, and his School was not what it should have been. The teacher lacked the dignity appropriate to his position, as well as an interest in his occupation. The latter may be attributed in a measure to the unpleasant location of the School-house, and the uninviting room in which he labored. It is certainly a good place to "teach the young idea how to shoot"—partridges and rabbits, (a sport the scholars frequently indulged in) but not well calculated to inspire them with a taste for learning.

DISTRICT No. 10.

SUMMER TERM — *Miss Elizabeth J. Hale, Teacher.* — Miss Hale's success in this School was good. The Scholars made good progress in the branches pursued, and singing was made a pleasing and interesting exercise. The interest manifested by the scholars as well as teacher at the examination, corresponded with the interest and appearance of the School during the term.

WINTER TERM — *Philo D. Winter, Teacher.* — Mr. Winter was

thorough and energetic as a teacher, and the School appeared very well during the term. Good progress was made in most of the studies pursued.

DISTRICT No. 11.

SUMMER TERM—*Miss Mary A. Seaver, Teacher.*—This District is in the same situation as several others in town—without scholars enough to make the School interesting. But the teacher succeeded well, and the scholars manifested much interest in their studies, and made good improvement.

WINTER TERM — *Aaron Phipps, Teacher.* — The School this term numbered fourteen scholars, with an average attendance of ten. Mr. P. has been a successful teacher for several years. He came to this place well recommended from the several towns where he had been employed as teacher. His School appeared well during the term, and the closing examination was very satisfactory. The scholars gave good evidence of having been well drilled in their studies. On visiting the School at its close, it was found that some of the scholars were absent on the pretense that the teacher had used *partiality*—a disease that has existed in the district for many years.

DISTRICT No. 12.

FIRST DIVISION.—SUMMER AND FALL TERMS.—*Miss Elnora A. Rose, Teacher.*—Miss Rose is a superior teacher. She was systematic and thorough in her instructions, and had a pleasing method of conveying her ideas so as to be understood by her pupils. The record of scholarship, and the closing examination showed that good progress had been made during both the terms of School, and the visitors appeared as much pleased with this School as the Committee. It had been very common for a large part of the scholars to leave the School previous to the closing examination, but we found none of this trouble in the District, and by comparing registers, we have found that there never has been so regular an attendance and such punctuality on the part of the scholars as during the past year. Miss R. had but two scholars absent at the examination of the School, and those furnished a reasonable excuse.

SECOND DIVISION.—SUMMER AND AUTUMN TERMS.—*Miss Lucy A. Alvord, Teacher.*—This School was larger in numbers than the first division. But Miss A. was very successful in securing the attention of the scholars, and they advanced well in their studies. The examination of the first term would have been more interesting if the scholars had recited their lessons with a fuller tone of voice. But this trouble was mostly remedied during the second term.

WINTER TERM.—*Miss Alzina Prentiss, Teacher.*—This School was made up of the second division, together with part of the first, others of the latter being admitted to the High School then held at this place. At the commencement of the term there was some lack of order, but the School improved in this respect, and during the term it was one of continued progress. The scholars were punctual in their attendance, and their recitations were good. This was Miss Prentiss' first School, and, it being a large one, we think she did exceedingly well.

THIRD DIVISION.—SUMMER TERM.—*Miss Jane C. Harvey, Teacher.*—This division was made up chiefly of foreigners, many of whom had

never attended School before. The task was a very hard one for Miss H., but with the assistance of Miss Collins, she was enabled to manage the School to the satisfaction of all. At the examination it was pleasing to witness fifty-six small scholars give so good attention to all the requirements of their teacher. This division has been represented by our predecessors as "containing so much of the wild and untamed elements of the *free*" that it could not be brought under subjection. We now find as good order here as in our best Schools. Miss H. will long be remembered for the interest she manifested in this School.

AUTUMN AND WINTER TERMS.—*Miss Emerancy Howard, Teacher.*—Miss H. has been a teacher in our Common Schools for several years, and experience has done much to make her one of the best. She was the right one to take the place of Miss Harvey, although well qualified to teach a higher grade of School. Good order was preserved; the scholars learned rapidly, and the school always appeared well. A large number of those who have attended the last three terms are now qualified to enter the second division.

This District contains more scholars than any of the others. The Assessors, however, report ~~over~~ *more than have attended school* *fifty* during the year. The School-house is the best in town, being pleasant, convenient and inviting. The District has expended the present year over \$600 in repainting the house, repairing it and procuring a bell. The Prudential Committee has discharged his duty faithfully by looking after the best interests of the District, securing the services of excellent teachers and co-operating with the Town Committee in their supervision of the Schools. By these means we are assured that the Schools in this place have been elevated to a higher standard than they have ever before attained.

DISTRICT No. 13.

SPRING TERM.—*Alpheus Winter, Teacher.*—Mr. Winter had a large School of sixty six scholars, many of whom possessed the elements of disorder. But Mr. W. had the faculty to govern his School as well as to instruct it. He secured the best of order, and all the exercises of the School were prompt and full of animation. Mr. Winter is an excellent disciplinarian.

SUMMER TERM.—*Miss Martha A. Pease, Teacher.*—The attendance during this term was larger than at the Spring term, the whole number of scholars being seventy-eight. It is not expected that one teacher can do justice to so large a number of pupils. But Miss P. did all that could be expected; she was resolute and maintained good order. The School appeared well during a term of fourteen weeks. The examination was good, and the recitations in Geography, and one in Arithmetic, excelled. The scholars in this District have been considered very backward, but there has been as great improvement in this School as in any other in town during the year.

WINTER TERM.—*Same Teacher.*—This term was full as successful as the Summer one; the teacher was faithful to her charge, and the scholars made good progress in their studies. This District and some few others in town, are wise in securing their teachers for several terms in succession. If other Districts would adopt the same plan it would be

much for their benefit, and many times save them the trouble of contending about the qualifications of their teachers.

SELECT SCHOOLS.

During the year Select Schools have been kept at the Depot Village, by Miss Agnes Gardner, Miss Jane M. Shaw, and Miss Mary L. Brakenridge. They were all well attended by small scholars, and we believe quite successful.

With the School Statistics which follow, we close our Report. We feel confident that the standard of education in our Schools has been elevated during the past year, but we are sensible that there is room for still greater advancement. We have been pleased to witness an increased interest in our Schools on the part of parents, and we trust that there will be no abatement of this interest in years to come. The character, deportment and literary qualifications of our youth, depend upon our Common Schools, and the condition of the latter may be judged by the appearance of the former. Let us, then, be liberal in our appropriations for the support of Schools, considering that the money we expend for the education of our youth is well and wisely invested.

G. M. FISK,
F. BARKER,
E. B. GATES, } *School Committee.*

STATISTICS OF THE SCHOOLS.

In the column of "Average Number," the fractions have been omitted.

No. 1.—HIGH SCHOOL.

Place.	Teacher.	Wages per month.	Time in months.	Whole No.	Average Number.
Palmer Center.	D. S. Phillips.	\$45 45	2 $\frac{3}{4}$	39	28
Three Rivers.	" " "	45 45	2 $\frac{3}{4}$	22	18
Depot Village.	" " "	45 45	2 $\frac{3}{4}$	38	36
Thorndike.	" " "	45 45	2 $\frac{3}{4}$	46	39

No. 2.—DISTRICT SCHOOLS.—SUMMER TERM.

No. of Districts.	Teachers.	Wages per mo.	Time in months	Whole number.	Average number.
1, Old Center.	Miss Angeline Harvey. }	\$14 00	1 $\frac{3}{4}$	22	13
	" Elizabeth J. Hale. }	16 00	1 $\frac{1}{4}$	22	13
2, Three Rivers, 1st D.	Mrs. P. A. Thomas,	20 00	3	43	37
2, " " 2d D.	Miss Sarah Nelson.	17 00	2 $\frac{3}{4}$	64	33
3, Depot, 1st D.	" Maria B. Williams.	20 00	3	41	31
3, " " 2d D.	" Sarah Wilson.	16 00	3	56	37
4, Mason.	" Minerva M. Hastings.	12 48	4	26	16
5, Foster.	" Martha M. Sedgwick.	14 00	3	11	10
6, Burley.	" S. J. Merrick.	11 20	3 $\frac{3}{4}$	20	14
7, Shaw.	" J. D. Strickland.	16 00	3 $\frac{3}{4}$	8	7
8, Shearer.	" Ellen M. Butler.	17 00	2 $\frac{1}{2}$	19	16
9, Gamwell.	No School.				
10, Bondville.	" Elizabeth J. Hale.	20 00	2	32	26
11, Hastings.	" Mary A. Seaver.	12 67	3	6	5
12, Thorndike. 1st D.	" Elnora A. Rose.	20 00	2 $\frac{1}{2}$	34	31
12, " 2d D.	" Lucy A. Alvord.	16 00	2 $\frac{1}{2}$	48	42
12, " 3d D.	" Jane C. Harvey.	16 00	2 $\frac{1}{2}$	82	62
12, " " "	Assistant.	3 60			
13, Duckville.	Alpheus Winter.	26 00	2	50	32

No. 3.—AUTUMN TERM.

No. of Districts.	Teachers.	Wages per month.	Time in months.	Whole number.	Average number.
2, 1st D.	Mrs. P. A. Thomas.	\$20 00	2 $\frac{1}{4}$	37	34
2, 2d D.	Miss Sarah Nelson.	18 00	2 $\frac{1}{4}$	58	41
8,	Mr. Charles C. Street.	17 00	1	16	14
12, 1st D.	Miss Elnora A. Rose.	20 00	2 $\frac{3}{4}$	34	28
12, 2d D.	" Lucy A. Alvord.	20 00	3 $\frac{1}{4}$	46	32
12, 3d D.	" Emerancy Howard.	17 00	3	92	81
13	" Martha A. Pease.	17 50	3 $\frac{1}{2}$	61	47

STATISTICS OF THE SCHOOLS, (CONTINUED.)

No. 4.—WINTER TERM.

No. of Districts.	Teachers.	Wages per month.	Time in months.	Whole No.	Average No.
1.	Jane C. Harvey.	\$20.00	3	20	15
2, 1st D.	Charles C. Street.	32.00	3½	49	36
2, 2d D.	Sarah Nelson.	20.00	3½	61	58
3, 1st D.	Augustus Alvord.	33.00	3	53	38
3, 2d D.	Elizabeth J. Hale.	21.00	3	53	37
4.	Minerva M. Hastings.	17.00	3	19	15
5.	Martha M. Sedgwick.	14.00	3	12	11
6.	Harriet J. Burnett.	15.00	3	25	22
7.	L. F. Griggs.	33.50	2	7	6
8.	George M. Burr.	21.33	3	35	28
9.	Hartwell Fisk.	22.50	3	10	9
10.	Philo D. Winter.	30.00	3	33	28
11.	Aaron Phipps.	24.00	2½	11	10
12, 1st D.	No School.	00.00	0	00	00
12, 2d D.	Alzina C. Prentiss.	16.00	3	50	40
12, 3d D.	Emerancy Howard.	20.00	3	73	60
13.	Martha A. Pease.	22.00	2½	50	40

NUMBER OF SCHOLARS, AND DIVISION OF SCHOOL MONEY FOR THE YEAR 1855-6.

Districts.	No. of Scholars.	\$1700 divided on the Scholar by the Assessors.	\$300 divided by the Committee,	\$168,72 School Fund, and 4950 Merrick Fund, divided equally. (\$218,22.)	Total.	Amount to each Scholar in each District.
No. 1.	32	\$70,28	\$10,00	\$16,78 3-5	\$97,06	\$3,303
" 2.	149	327,27	00,00	16,78 3-5	344,05	2,309
" 3.	97	213,05	00,00	16,78 3-5	229,83	2,37
" 4.	18	39,53	37,47	16,78 3-5	93,78	5,21
" 5.	13	28,55	48,45	16,78 3-5	93,78	7,214
" 6.	28	61,50	15,50	16,78 3-5	93,78	3,349
" 7.	11	24,16	52,84	16,78 3-5	93,78	8,525
" 8.	17	37,35	27,65	16,78 3-5	81,78	4,81
" 9.	9	19,77	37,23	16,78 3-5	73,78	8,197
" 10.	38	83,46	11,42	16,78 3-5	111,66	2,938
" 11.	8	17,56	59,44	16,78 3-5	93,78	11,722
" 12.	271	595,22	00,00	16,78 3-5	612,00	2,258
" 13.	83	182,30	00,00	16,78 3-5	199,08	2,397
Total.	774	1700,00	300,00	218,21 4-5	2,218,14	

NOTE.—In District No. 8, over \$15 were received from the town of Monsen last year, on account of Scholars from that town attending this School. This year as large an amount will probably be received. Half of the Scholars in this School belong in Monson. In District No. 9 there is last year's money still in the Treasury.

SELECTMEN'S REPORT.

The Selectmen chosen to report the receipts and expenditures of the town for the past year in detail, respectfully submit the following:

RECEIPTS.

Balance in the Treasury March 10, 1855,	\$958 96
Amount received of Chester Strong for Taxes, 1852,	138 73
“ “ “ David Knox “ “ 1853,	241 68
“ “ “ Parker W. Webster for Taxes, 1854,	678 95
“ “ “ “ “ “ 1855,	8,131 13
“ “ “ State for support of State Paupers,	39 65
“ “ “ State School Fund,	168 72
“ “ “ Interest on School Fund Note,	99 00
“ “ “ Rent of Town Hall,	3 00
“ “ “ Pedler's License,	30 00
“ “ “ Circus “	70 00
“ “ “ Town of Barre for support of Chipman Family,	14 42
“ “ “ Superintendent Poor Farm for Produce sold, 1854,	41 65
“ “ “ Overseers Poor on account of Poor Farm,	334 88
“ “ “ Town of Monson, repairs on Bridges,	18 84
“ “ “ Town Agents for Liquors sold,	1,532 54
“ “ “ Chapman and Chamberlin for error in bill rendered 1855,	17 91
“ “ “ Selectmen for old Bridge timber sold,	10 00
“ “ “ Balance received on School order for cash advanced,	35 00
	\$12,565 06

EXPENDITURES.

SCHOOLS.

<i>High School.</i>	<i>Amount paid.</i>
Mr. S. D. Phillips, Teacher, Salary,	\$500 00
“ “ “ “ for money appropriated by the School Committee,	10 00
Azel Breakenridge for Wood furnished High School,	5 50
G. M. Fisk for School Books and Diplomas,	23 68
William N. Packard for School Books,	1 00
<i>Amount carried forward,</i>	\$540 18

<i>Amount brought forward,</i>				\$540 18
District No. 1,	Amount of orders paid,			42 25
" " 2,	"	"	"	199 00
" " 3,	"	"	"	299 45
" " 4,	"	"	"	180 08
" " 5,	"	"	"	168 50
" " 6,	"	"	"	99 50
" " 7,	"	"	"	131 00
" " 8,	"	"	"	45 50
" " 9,	"	"	"	79 60
" " 10,	"	"	"	106 00
" " 11,	"	"	"	167 21
" " 12,	"	"	"	341 95
" " 13,	"	"	"	91 11
				<hr/>
				\$2,491 33

HIGHWAYS AND BRIDGES.

	<i>Amount paid.</i>
Pliney Cooley, for building new road near Bondsville,	\$1,045 00
Hiram Converse, for timber and planks for bridges,	42 01
S. G. Newton, for planks for bridges,	7 71
D. B. Bishop, " " " "	4 62
Cheney Allen, " " " "	10 32
E. B. Gates, " " " "	7 25
A. R. Smith, " " " "	70 36
Mathew C. Fenton, for repairing bridges	7 00
Nathan Howard, for repairing sundry bridges,	11 70
David Tenney, for building railing,	26 50
Independence Stone, for labor and painting on Three Rivers bridge,	8 48
Samuel Henry, for Land Damages on account new road,	4 25
Emerson Hastings, for injury received on Highway,	10 00
Adalade Moores, " " " " "	5 00
Theodore Ferrell, for labor on Northampton Road,	21 50
John Bacon, " " " " "	3 00
Samuel Atwood, for building Culvert near the Methodist Meeting-house, Three Rivers,	20 00
William H. Butler, for Surveying road,	8 40
James Fuller, for Land Damages on account new road,	10 90
Horace Hunn, for Lumber and Labor furnished on Bridges,	277 80
Horace Hunn, for breaking out roads the past Winter,	17 00
David Knox, " " " " "	10 00
T. V. Kent, " " " " "	3 50
James Strickland, " " " " "	8 25
William Blodgett, " " " " "	8 00
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<i>Amount carried forward,</i>	\$1,648 55

<i>Amount brought forward,</i>	\$1,648 55
Augustus Barrett, for breaking out roads the past Winter,	3 00
George W. Fuller, " " " " "	37 15
John Ward, " " " " "	20 00
Lorenzo C. Ferry, " " " " "	1 50
Charles H. King, " " " " "	8 00
David Knox, for repairing Bridges,	6 00
E. Brown, for nails and spikes for do.,	2 23
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	\$1,726 43

SUPPORT OF POOR.

	<i>Amount paid.</i>
Elihu Jones, for services on Poor Farm, 1854,	\$250 00
Azel Breakinridge, for one Cow for Poor Farm,	50 00
Dr. William Holbrook, for Medical attendance,	38 89
Arza Blodgett, for Shrouds for sundry Poor,	18 50
Hiram Converse, for Shingles for Poor Farm,	12 50
" " " Beef " " "	11 29
James S. Loomis, for Coffins for sundry Poor,	14 00
Lewis Tenney, " " " " "	36 00
Samuel Atwood, " " " " "	6 00
Hall J. Kelley, for House rent and fuel for Poor Farm,	10 69
R. B. Caswell, for Blasksmithing for Poor Farm,	4 86
Charles Barrett, for House rent, Chipman Family,	2 50
Horace C. Smith, for Wood furnished Lamb Family,	8 75
Overseers Poor, for expense in transporting State Paupers to Bridgewater,	8 00
do. do. Insane Pauper to Worcester,	4 00
John Bacon, for supporting Michael Gates,	51 00
Semuel Ferry, " Molly Ferry,	52 00
Nancy Wright, " Charity Barker,	19 50
Samuel Brown, " Pauper,	1 50
Francis Tatro, " "	28 20
Luther Collis, for goods furnished State Paupers,	884
E. Brown, for merchandise for Poor Farm,	22 67
Overseers Poor, for assisting sundry Poor,	18 85
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	\$678 54

TOWN EXPENSES.

	<i>Amount paid.</i>
Nelson W. Munger, for amount voted in settlement of a suit against the Town,	\$100 00
Thomas Wilson, for printing 1000 copies of his Historical Ad- dress,	85 00
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<i>Amount carried forward,</i>	\$185 00

<i>Amount brought forward,</i>	\$185 00
Samuel Bowles & Co., for printing Town Reports,	38 00
William A. Hastings, Treasurer of School District No. 12,	} 176 10
for balance due on District Taxes for 1848, '49, '50 & '51,	
Chester Strong, for abatement Taxes, 1851 and '52,	73 63
Justin Fuller, " " Poll Tax,	1 50
Parker W. Webster, for Pliny Cooley, Trustee,	17 30
A. R. Murdock, for Stationery for Assessors,	5 75
Esther Calkins, for Annual Interest, (orders drawn 1851,)	38 20
Lewis Shoals, " " " (" " 1850,)	79 50
A. H. Maxwell, " Witness Fees Supreme Court,	2 45
Alanson C. Merrick, " " " " "	2 45
Chapman & Chamberlin, for Professional Services,	107 00
James G. Allen, for Professional Services, (School Com. 1854,)	2 00
William Rice, for County Tax,	1619 99
Zadock P. Putnam, for opening Graves and returning Deaths,	13 20
Joseph Moody, " " " "	7 36
Elias Turner, " " " "	15 40
Jonathan McElwain, " " " "	17 60
David Knox, " " " " }	52 00
" " and Services as Sexton,	
Horace Hunn, for expenses attending Court, &c.,	8 75
Fisk & Goff, for Printing and Advertising,	26 00
Moses Barnes, for services as Liquor Agent,	50 00
Sandford Howard, " " "	29 17
William Holbrook, " " "	35 83
" " for Liquors purchased as Town Agent,	1001 21
Sandford Howard, " " " "	564 15
" " for Freight and Express bills paid,	7 42
Parker W. Webster, for abatement Taxes, 1855,	164 30
" " " " cash paid Witnesses, posting Town }	42 00
Warrants, and notifying Town Officers,	
David Knox, for services Collector of Taxes 1853,	100 00
" " " Expenses attending Court,	5 00
E. Brown, for Merchandise furnished the Liquor Agent,	3 58
" " Recording Births, Marriages and Deaths,	27 20
Abram B. Davis, for Cash received Town of Munson for School District No. 8,	15 57
Joshua Graves for Note and Interest,	546 00
Benjamin F. Goff, for four years Annual Interest,	656 15
State Treasurer, for State Tax,	999 00
" " Interest on Note,	228 00
Paid Interest on sundry Town Orders after payment demanded,	2 32
Paid Express Bills,	8 50
Paid Postage, Stationery, &c.,	6 39

\$6,980 97

TOWN OFFICERS.

	<i>Amount paid.</i>
Horace Hunn, Selectman,	\$48 50
Nathan Howard, “	36 00
David Knox, “	45 50
Ebenezer Brown, Treasurer,	30 00
A. R. Murdock, Assessor,	46 57
“ “ Taking Census,	30 20
Gilbert Barker, Assessor,	27 00
“ “ Taking Census,	15 80
S G. Shaw, Assessor,	45 32
“ “ Taking Census,	19 58
Gorden M. Fisk, School Committee,	70 25
Ephraim B. Gates, “ “	55 75
Franklin Barker, “ “	34 55
Horace Hunn, Overseer Poor,	15 00
Nathan Howard, “ “	11 50
David Knox, “ “	50 00
	<hr/> \$581 46

TOWN DEBT.

State Treasurer, (Note,)	\$3,800 00
Abel Calkin's Heirs, (5 Notes,)	2,500 00
	<hr/> \$6,300 00

RECAPITULATION.

Amount paid for Schools,		2,491 33
“ “ Highways and Bridges,		1,725 53
“ “ Support of Poor,		678 54
“ “ Town Expenses,		6,980 97
“ “ Town Officers,		581 46
		<hr/>
		\$12,457 83
Total Amount of Receipts,	\$12,565 06	
Total Amount of Expenditures,	12,457 83	
	<hr/>	
Balance in the Treasury, March 10, 1856,	\$107 23	
Amount Due from Parker W. Webster, Collection 1855,		\$1,457 65
“ “ State, for support State Paupers,		51 00
“ “ Heirs of Oliver Ferry, support of Molly Ferry, (suit now pending,)		75 00
“ “ The Guardian of the Moore Children,		140 00
“ “ Ephraim Fenton, (Note,)		50 00
“ “ Bonded Passenger,		175 00
“ “ Town of Monson, for Cash due School District No. 8,		15 57
“ “ Interest on School Fund Note, due April 1, 1856,		49 50
		<hr/>
		\$2,013 72
Balance in the Treasury,		107 23
		<hr/>
Total amount due the Town,		\$2,120 95
Due the several School Districts,	\$1,474 38	
Outstanding Town Orders,	814 27	
Due Superintendent Poor Farm Salary, due April 1, 1856,	225 00	\$2,513 65
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Balance against the Town,		\$392 70
All of which is respectfully submitted,		

HORACE HUNN,	} Selectmen
NATHAN HOWARD,	
DAVID KNOX,	
	of
	Palmer.

REPORT OF OVERSEERS OF THE POOR.

For the support of Paupers for the year ending March 1, 1856.

EXPENSES.

To invoice of Stock, Hay, Grain, Provisions, &c., as estimated March 1, 1855,	\$1,519 88
To interest on cost of Almshouse establishment,	150 00
“ Bills paid as per Pauper Account,	678 54
“ Superintendent's Salary, (due April 1, 1856),	225 00
“ Outstanding orders on account of Paupers,	177 43
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	\$2,750 85

RECEIPTS.

By Invoice of Stock, Hay, Grain, Provisions, &c., as estimated March 1, 1856,	\$1,287 30
“ Overseers Poor on account of Poor Farm,	334 88
“ Amount due from heirs of Oliver Ferry for the support of Molly Ferry,	75 00
“ Amount due from Ephraim Fenton, (note),	50 00
“ “ “ Guardian Moore children,	140 00
“ “ “ Bonded Passenger,	175 00
“ “ “ State for support State Paupers,	51 00
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	\$2,113 18
Balance against Poor House Establishment,	637 67

All of which is respectfully submitted,

HORACE HUNN,
NATHAN HOWARD,
DAVID KNOX,

} Overseers
of
the Poor.

REPORT OF THE TOWN LIQUOR AGENTS.

EXPENSES.

To Invoice of Liquors, Casks, &c., as estimated March 1, 1855,	\$281 56
“ Salary of Liquor Agents,	115 00
“ Freight and Express bills paid,	15 22
“ Town Agents for Liquors purchased,	1,557 56
“ Brace Bitts, Faucets, &c., for Agents,	3 58
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	\$1,972 92

RECEIPTS.

By Invoice Liquors, Casks, &c., as estimated March 1, 1856,	\$463 73
“ Cash for sales of Liquors,	1,532 54
	<hr/>
	\$1,996 27
Balance in favor of the Agency,	23 35

Respectfully submitted,

HORACE HUNN,
NATHAN HOWARD, }
DAVID KNOX, }

Selectmen
of
Palmer.

TOWN VALUATION, &C.

Valuation Town of Palmer, 1855,	\$1,258,711
Reduced Valuation,	7,552,266
Amount raised to defray Town Expenses,	3,000
“ “ for Common Schools,	2,000
“ “ “ High School,	525
“ “ to apply on Town Debt,	1,000
“ “ to repair Highways and Bridges,	1,500
Number of Polls,	882.
Poll Tax,	\$1 50.
Tax 65 cents on \$100.	
Amount of Tax bills in hands of collector, 1855,	\$9,588 78
A. R. MURDOCK,	} Assessors of Palmer.
GILBERT BARKER,	
S. G. SHAW,	

